

March 13, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET IN BURNS, OREGON

The Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) established by the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act (Act) of 2000 will hold a public meeting in Burns, Oregon, on April 4 and 5, 2002. The SMAC will meet at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., local time, on April 4 and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on April 5.

The agenda for this meeting will include discussions on wilderness inholding access, cooperative management agreements, transportation, wild horses, Stonehouse environmental assessment, updates on the legislated land exchanges and the Resource Management Plan, recreation use monitoring, agenda items for upcoming meetings, and other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC.

The entire meeting is open to the public. Information to be distributed to the SMAC is requested 10 days prior to the start of the SMAC meeting and should be sent to Rhonda Karges at the BLM Burns District Office at 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738. Public comment opportunities have been scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., local time, on April 4, 2002, and again on April 5, 2002, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., local time.

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The 12-member SMAC was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior on August 14, 2001, pursuant to the Act. The SMAC's purpose is to provide representative counsel and advice to the BLM regarding (1) new and unique approaches to management of the land within the bounds of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA), (2) cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs, maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the area, and (3) preparation and implementation of a management plan for the CMPA.

Members currently serving on the SMAC are:

Vacant (No CMPA-financial interest)
Stacy Davies (Grazing Permittee)
Alice Elshoff (Environmental Representative- Local)
E. Ron Harding (Wild Horse Management)
Thomas Harris (Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation)
Wanda Johnson (Burns Paiute Tribe)
Jason Miner (Fish and Recreational Fishing)
Steve Purchase (State Government Liaison (nonvoting member)
Jerry Sutherland (Environmental Representative- State)
Thomas Wendel (Dispersed Recreation)
Hoyt Wilson (Grazing Permittee)
Cindy Witzel (Recreational Permit Holder)
Harland Yriarte (Private Landowner)

The Designated Federal Official is Miles Brown, BLM's Andrews Resource Area Field Manager. **For more information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges, BLM, at the above address or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., local time.**

#####BLM#####